

ED visits (Source: IDPH 10-08-2013)

Interpretation of this data:

Q1: Did patients self-report or did they test positive for substance use...was substance use a causal or contributing factor in their ED visit?

A1: The information comes from hospital coders who translate doctors' diagnoses into ICD 9 codes for billing purposes. Methodologies for diagnoses vary -- medical history self-report, clinical signs, and physical exams and labs.

In this analysis, ICD 9 codes for substance use were queried on primary diagnosis and 7 other fields. Therefore, these numbers represent substance abuse as a causal (primary reason for ED visits such as overdose) or contributing factor (secondary field such as injury associated with use).

Q2: Are these unique visits or could poly-drug using patients have been counted in more than one category...etc.)? :

A2: Unique visits, not unique patients. A person who visits the ED once will be counted once. A person who goes to the ED several times in a year will be counted each time.

Table 1: Proportion of alcohol and drug ED visits

ED VISITS	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Alcohol and Drug	20,452	18,279	18,655	25,842	17,241	18,840	21,458
Total ED	1,359,893	1,408,870	1,436,964	1,484,715	1,451,641	1,489,926	1,508,695
Percent	1.5%	1.3%	1.3%	1.74%	1.19%	1.26%	1.42%

Table 2: Number of ED visits related to alcohol and drugs

ED visits related to alcohol and drug	YEAR						
Substance Abuse	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Alcohol	13,093	11,871	12,116	16,753	11,016	11,742	4,074
Alcohol + drug	764	483	493	955	486	544	660
Amphetamine +other	183	58	59	180	109	122	147
Amphetamine	605	378	384	542	417	483	584
Antidepressant	302	309	315	313	264	284	317
Antidepressant + other	61	29	29	108	88	105	108
Barbiturate	173	181	182	230	174	189	180
Cannabis	455	523	534	818	596	758	932
Cocaine	552	331	340	287	170	180	167
Hallucinogen	20	29	29	20	20	37	38
Opiate	419	512	525	987	570	597	874
Opiates +other	100	85	85	227	117	171	172
Other combo	187	119	121	179	110	123	104
Other drug	346	392	395	401	330	336	105
Tranquilizer	393	461	466	449	467	523	460
Unspecified drug	2,799	2,518	2,582	3,393	2,307	2646	2,536
Grand Total	20,452	18,279	18,655	25,842	17,241	18,840	21,458

Table 3: Associated External Cause of Visits for Alcohol and Drugs in 2012

CAUSES	Frequency
MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES	276
FIREARM	5
POISONING	1,344
FALLS	701
SUFFOCATION	5
DROWNING	2
FIRE/BURN	14
CUT/PIERCE	126
STRUCK BY/AGAINST	380
MACHINERY	3
OTHER PEDAL CYC	37
OTHER TRANS	28
NATURAL/ENVIR	27
OVEREXERTION	28
OTHER SPEC	24
NEC	68
NOT SPECIFIED	140
TOTAL VALID ECODE	3,208
MISSING ECODE	18,250